

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 5 was rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Meltser et al. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomioka et al. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-9 are allowed.

In response to the informalities noted by the Examiner, claims 5 and 6 have been amended to incorporate features of the claims already indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, in view of the indication of the allowability of claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-9, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

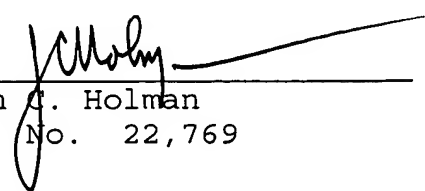
Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims in the present application, as they now stand, patentably distinguish over the references cited and applied by the Examiner and are, therefore, in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is in order, and such favorable action and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

However, if after reviewing the above amendments and remarks, the Examiner has any questions or comments, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN, PLLC

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
John C. Holman  
Reg. No. 22,769

400 Seventh Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201  
(202) 638-6666  
Date: May 27, 2004  
JLS/dmt